



**Committee on
Homeland Security Democrats**
Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking Member

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**Homeland Security Ranking Democrat Demands FEMA Continues
Housing: “Give Katrina Survivors
Something to Be Thankful for this Holiday”**

WASHINGTON--Rep. Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS), Ranking Member, House Committee on Homeland Security, demanded that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reconsider its decision to end payments for approximately 150,000 Hurricane Katrina evacuees living in hotel and motel rooms. The agency has said these payments to evacuees will end on December 1, 2005.

In a letter sent to FEMA Acting Director R. David Paulison, Rep. Thompson also expressed frustration with FEMA's failure to act quickly on an offer Fannie Mae made two months ago that would provide 1,500 housing units to Katrina evacuees in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas.

“The Department's failure to act expeditiously in this matter represents yet another lost opportunity to make things right for the people of the Gulf Coast,” said Congressman Thompson.

FEMA also has yet to develop long-term housing plans and it has been slow to deliver trailers to displaced residents and has not implemented existing federal housing programs.

“Rather than simply putting up fliers, FEMA must develop a serious plan for helping move people from hotels into more permanent housing,” Rep. Thompson added. “FEMA cannot be allowed to be a scrooge this season as hundreds of thousands of Americans suffer from the after-effects of the hurricanes.”

A .pdf copy of the letter is attached.

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